From: San Francisco Chronicle
To: Rather, Terry (SHF)
Subject: Morning Fix | Your Daily Headlines | e-edition
Date: Sunday, December 09, 2018 4:34:09 AM

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San Francisco Chronicle

Morning Fix

Sunday, December 9, 2018

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Good morning subscribers. It's been a tough, deadly year for wildfires in California. In this morning's paper, reporter Lizzie Johnson takes you through the inside story of death and survival during the 150 minutes in which the Carr Fire produced a tornado of flames. On our website, you can see stunning videos of the fire tornado.

Top Stories

Rebuilding from Camp Fire to take years because of labor shortage, insurance costs

By J.K. Dineen

For those who decide to rebuild after the Camp Fire, it may be years, even a decade, before construction workers show up to pour a foundation and hammer 2-by-4s.

Snap! The local HOA just captured your license plate number

By Rachel Swan

Homeowners throughout the Bay Area and in other U.S. cities are turning to license plate readers as a next line of defense against property crime.

150 Minutes of Hell: Death and survival in California's tornado of fire

By Rachel Swan

The vortex of air ripped around a column of rising heat, flames licking its walls. A freak of meteorology, the fire tornado would annihilate everything in its path, uprooting trees and crumpling electrical towers.

Read more at SFChronicle.com

Bay Area News

Hardworking mom had never sought help, but medical crises drained her savings

By Erin Allday

Ximena Rodriguez is self-employed. If she doesn’t work, she doesn’t get paid. For 23 days she hadn’t left her daughter's side at the hospital. For four weeks, she had no income.

Santas, elves fill Union Square for 24th annual

SantaCon

By Lauren Hernández

The San Francisco SantaCon tradition started with just a few dozen Santas in 1994, but has grown to include thousands of people sporting red velour suits.

Cirque du Soleil performer doing well, officials say

By Sarah Ravani

A Cirque du Soleil performer who fell off his BMX bike during a show in San Francisco is “doing well,” show officials said Saturday.

SF’s rename game packed in Pandora’s box

By Carl Nolte

Just the other day, San Francisco Supervisor Aaron Peskin stood up at the regular board meeting to say he wanted to remove Facebook zillionaire Mark Zuckerberg’s name from San Francisco General Hospital.

Read more Local stories

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Politics

DA Gascón carried guns on planes, then whistle-blower was fired, suit says

By Matier & Ross

A former senior investigator says he was fired for blowing the whistle on his boss, San Francisco District Attorney George Gascón.

Read more Politics stories

Click here to sign up for the Political Punch newsletter.

Sporting Green

Worst season ever? 49ers, Raiders close in on historically bad campaign

By Ron Kroichick

This ugly mess of an NFL season feels like a landmark in some twisted way — from the Khalil Mack trade to Jimmy Garoppolo's knee injury to Amari Cooper's departure.

If 49ers defended Reuben Foster, as alleged, they're knee-deep in muck

By Scott Ostler

If you are an NFL official, especially an official working for the 49ers, the last thing you want to do is make it look like you're asking the cops to let your guy off with a warning.

Former Giants third baseman 'Dirty Al' Gallagher dies

By John Shea

Alan Gallagher, the first native San Franciscan to play for the Giants after they moved west and third baseman on the 1971 National League West championship team, has died.

Why Kevin Durant is one of Bucks star Giannis Antetokounmpo's biggest fans

By Connor Letourneau

Now in his 12th NBA season, Kevin Durant is intent on helping the league's next generation maximize their athletic potential.

'Follow Farhan's advice': Giants boss Zaidi highly

regarded by baseball GMs

By John Shea

As he arrives at his first winter meetings, which start Monday in Las Vegas, as the Giants' boss, Farhan Zaidi has more going for him than experience.

U.S. women learn path for World Cup championship quest

By Ann Killion

The American women's soccer team's French quest for a fourth championship will get what appears to be an easy start in group stage of the 2019 Women's World Cup.

Read more Sporting Green stories

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Biz+Tech

The quick, cheap future of transportation: Lime scoots around the globe

By Carolyn Said

Lime isn't even 2 years old, but it's already vaulted into the tech world's pantheon of unicorns.

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Click here to sign up for the Tech Chronicle newsletter.

Opinion Central

We need Capra's sincere vision to make California life wonderful again

By Joe Mathews

The California story needs a remake. It’s become too much about the Musks and the Zuckerbergs, and their schemes and machines to grab our attention and money.

Ocasio-Cortez borrowing from Trump’s publicity playbook

By Jonah Goldberg

One of the most comforting talking points in politics is to claim that your political opponents are irrationally obsessed.

Truce achieved in Berkeley free speech fight

By John Diaz

A truce of sorts was reached last week in the latest battle over free speech at UC Berkeley. Rare is the lawsuit settlement in which each side can credibly claim a level of vindication. This is one.

West must develop wildfire ethic to survive

By Stephen R. Miller

The wildfires that have ravaged California’s cities have brought into stark relief the difficulties that arise when Western communities grow into the region’s rural expanse.

Trump takes on General Motors, and guess who wins?

By Robert Reich

Donald Trump’s “America first” economic nationalism is finally crashing into the reality of America’s shareholder-first global capitalism.

Editorial: Redevelopment costly, wasteful — and sorely missed?

Chronicle editorial board

As policymakers have struggled to address California's housing void, many have lamented Gov. Brown's elimination of hundreds of local redevelopment agencies.

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Food & Culture

The best San Francisco Bay Area bartenders of 2018

By Esther Mobley, Lou Bustamante, Maggie Hoffman

It seems undeniable that the Bay Area craft cocktail movement's core figures are just as talented, and played just as large a role in our dining culture, as the region's top chefs.

Tacos Oscar's unlikely road to success in Oakland? Follow the T-shirt

By Jonathan Kauffman

If you follow Tacos Oscar's Instagram feed, you've grown accustomed to seeing smiling, often ridiculously attractive, people wearing TACOS OSCAR TACO STALKER T-shirts.

Albany’s Morningtide is the store you’ll want to live in

By Samantha Durbin

This time of year, there are two things circling people’s minds: gift shopping and staying calm during the holidays. Morningtide both inspires and anticipates these impulses.

Read more Food & Culture stories

Click here to sign up for the Chronicle Food newsletter.

Datebook

Holiday Gift Guide: Creative ideas for devotees of the arts

By Mariecar Mendoza

When it comes to the gift-giving season, being unique is key — especially for the quirky, creative person in your life.

Peter Hedges directs son Lucas and Julia Roberts in drama ‘Ben is Back’

By Jessica Zack

Peter Hedges’ new addiction drama is titled “Ben Is Back,” but the writer-director-producer admits it might have been more fitting to call it “Ben Came Back Too Soon.”

SF Ballet ‘Nutcracker’ sparkles with holiday magic

By Claudia Bauer

San Francisco Ballet premiered America’s first full-length “Nutcracker” in 1944, and the company still performs one of the loveliest productions from coast to coast.

Holiday arts and entertainment events in the Bay Area

By Chronicle Staff

The holiday season is upon us and it can be overwhelming to try to choose which ensembles to listen to, movies to see, and productions of the "Nutcracker" to attend.

Read more Datebook stories

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Chronicle Vault

Chronicle Covers: John Lennon’s violent death and his lasting impact

By Tim O’Rourke

The Chronicle’s front page from Dec. 9, 1980, covers the killing of singer, songwriter and activist John Lennon.

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